

# COUNTY OF MARLBORO



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair  
Marlboro County Council

J. Ronald Munnerlyn, Jr.  
County Administrator

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August 3, 2018

Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 17-79: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing  
Barriers to Infrastructure Investment

Dear Commissioner Carr:

As the Chairwoman of the Marlboro County Council and the South Carolina African American Elected Officials Office, I write to you on an important issue that effects not only members of my community, but the rest of South Carolina, and the United States.

That issue is prioritizing fifth generation "5G" network implementation. Your leadership on this issue is much appreciated, and I hope you will continue to push for more reforms that will streamline infrastructure rules from coast to coast. A national model will help spur investment and make it go further – allowing more people in more communities to experience the benefits of 5G sooner.

Currently, we are faced with outdated regulations that will slow down and eat up investment in next-generation networks. For example, modern wireless infrastructure called small cells that cover short distances are being subjected to the same permitting processes and fee structures that were meant for 100-foot towers that can serve communities. Thousands upon thousands of small cells are needed for 5G. With that in mind, it's easy to see how old regulations could hinder the timely arrival of 5G throughout the country.

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Modernizing regulations is a perennial issue, but it's especially critical here because 5G is not just about faster wireless service. It's about revolutionary opportunity. Because of that, we don't want to be left behind.

This is important for our students in particular. With 5G technologies, the classroom experience can be transformed. Between STEM education opportunities on next-generation networks and virtual reality driven lessons, students will be able to interact with people and experience places far beyond Marlboro. These opportunities will better prepare them to thrive in a digital world.

I've recently seen announcements about 5G coming to various cities later this year. That's great, and I hope to see more announcements soon – especially announcements that show the buildout going beyond urban areas. Making that a reality will take leaders at all levels of government stepping up to greenlight policies that remove outdated regulatory barriers. The FCC has and should continue to lead – laying a consistent framework for deployment that will make more areas 5G ready and help the U.S. win the race to 5G.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Carolyn A. Prince". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chairwoman  
Marlboro County Council

CAP/pmb